ABSOLUTE

MARTIAN MANHUNTER™

DC

ALL IN

15+ TEEN+ 6

CAMP
RODRÍGUEZ

IT'S A NEW DAY IN GOTHAM.

BATMAN #1

Superstars
MATT FRACTION
and **JORGE JIMÉNEZ**
introduce an unforgettable
era of monthly adventures
starring the Caped Crusader

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ALL IN

A fresh start for
DC's flagship
series begins in
SEPTEMBER

WHY DO PEOPLE DO THE THINGS THEY DO?

TRAUMATIC QUANTITIES OF PAIN

DAMAGE

DESPAIR!

YOU

I

WE ARE COMING APART!

OVEREXPOSURE TO FUNDAMENTAL REALITY RESULTS IN ANTI-LIFE SPIRAL!

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS BY NOW?

WHRRRRR

RRR

Dark-side is.

Dark-side is.

Dark-side--

FOCUS, JOHN JONES!

SEE: BRIDGET AND TYLER. SEE THEM ALONE. SEE THEM NEEDING YOU.

WRRRRRR

THERE IS SOMETHING *SERIOUSLY* WRONG WITH YOU. YOU ARE ONE *@$#*£€-UP* DUDE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

PULL YOURSELF

US

EVERYTHING TOGETHER!

FOCUS

CONCENTRATE

REMEMBER WHAT MATTERS.

NOTHING MATTERS.

YOU KNOW IT. EVERYBODY KNOWS IT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BOB?

RRRF

CLOWN 0.0

FOCUS CONCENTRATE REMEMBER WHAT IS REAL!

Br-BRIDGET? TY--?

GET BACK! HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!

MY BUDDY *BOB* TAUGHT ME HOW. HE'S FROM *MARS* OR SOMEWHERE, AND KNOWS ALL KINDSA CRAZY THINGS.

Like, TURNS OUT, EVERYTHING'S MOSTLY JUST *EMPTY SPACE.* DID YOU KNOW THAT? *I* DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

THE WALLS AND THE FLOORS

AND THE DOGS

AND THE *DOORS.*

MEANINGLESS ACCUMULATIONS OF *NOTHING.*

US, *TOO.* WE'RE ALL JUST MEANINGLESS ACCUMULATIONS OF NOTHING.

I'LL TELL THEM TO PUT THAT ON YOUR TOMB-STONE.

CHK CHK

"HERE LIES A MEANINGLESS ACCUMULATION OF NOTHING."

BAM

SEE? MOSTLY NOTHING.

OPEN YOUR DUR MY EYE!

WRRRRRR

MY FAMILY-- need to find-- SAVE MY--

IN MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION THERE'S NO SAVING ANYONE.

BUT IF WE ACCEPT THAT-- ACCEPT IT DEEP DOWN-- WE CAN GO ANYWHERE. WE CAN DO ANYTHING. I MOSTLY STUCK TO DOGS TILL NOW, BUT BOB MADE A PRETTY CONVINCING ARGUMENT...

"...A BITCH IS A BITCH IS A BITCH."

BLAM

NOW, DON'T WORRY-- WHEN WE'RE THROUGH YOU WON'T FEEL A THING.

RRR

LET US IN OUT THROUGH, JOHN!

...need... help...

YES! GOOD IDEA #1325-

"WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, PARTNER."

THE MARTIAN LOOKS--

--just **looks**--

--AT THE ONE WITH THE SAW, AND ALL ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN HIS BRAIN IMMEDIATELY STOPS.

ZAP

RRRRRR

GOOD OLD BOB. "THE MAN WITH THE HOLE FOR A HEAD." BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD.

HE LET ME IN ON THE ***BIG SECRET.***

"SEE, IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO HAPPEN THIS WAY. WE DON'T HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER. NOT YOU, NOT ME. NOT EVEN ***BOB.***"

YOUR HUSBAND CAN'T HELP YOU. THE GREEN GUY CAN'T HELP YOU.

NO ONE CAN HELP YOU.

CLACK

THE SUN WILL NEVER RISE. NO ONE'S COMING.

NO ONE SEES. NOT EVEN GOD.

ISN'T THAT FREEING?

WE ALONE, IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY, WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

TOC

THOUGH SOMEHOW I GET THE FEELING THAT IF HE DID SEE, HE'D APPROVE.

NNNRAAAARRH

JOHN?! WHERE...?!

GET TO HEAD-QUARTERS! THE OFFICE IS *FORTIFIED!*

HOW--?! *NOTHING* CAN TOUCH ME! HOW CAN YOU TOUCH ME?!

GO, BRIDGE!

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

RUN!

SMACK

Oh, I SEE. I *SEE.* YOU'VE GOT *BACKUP.*

Well, GUESS *WHAT?*

I GOT BACKUP TOO.

J-JOHN...

YOUR SHORTCUT? NON-EUCLIDEAN--

DISORIENTED BY DARKNESS! HIGH-DIMENSIONAL ESCAPE IS DANGEROUS

IMPASSABLE

IMPOSSIBLE!

WE'RE NIGHT-BLIND!

Who are you talking--?

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THEM!

GET TO TYLER'S ROOM AND LOCK THE DOOR.

WE'RE A TEAM! I'M NOT LEAVING--

GO!

SOMEWHERE VERY HIGH UP-- **SPIRITUALLY** HIGH, ALL BURNING SYMBOL AND MEANING-- I CAN FEEL TWO MARTIANS FIGHTING OVER MIDDLETON.

FOR THEM-- things made of pure mind-- IT CAN ALL GET A LITTLE **ABSTRACT.**

A PUNCH IS NOT JUST A PUNCH UP THERE. IT'S A **METAPHOR.**

Although that particular metaphor looked like it hurt.

CRUNCH

DOWN HERE, EVERYTHING'S MORE LITERAL.

A PUNCH IS **JUST A PUNCH.**

CLICK

FFFFFF--

GUH!

VIOLENCE IS JUST VIOLENCE.

AS THE MAN IN THE CLOWN JACKET TRIES TO SPILL MY BRAIN OUT ONTO THE HARDWOOD...

...THE WHITE MARTIAN REACHES ACROSS TOWN INTO THE HEAD OF A SLEEPING BOY WITH **TERMINAL BRAIN CANCER.** IN APARTMENT 3B, THE BOY DREAMS THE TUMOR IS AS BIG AS THE CITY.

IT PULSES AND **THROBS** AND SEEMS TO SMILE WITH CROOKED, UNNATURAL TEETH. ITS TENDRILS REACH OUT, DESTROYING EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH.

IN RESPONSE, THE GREEN MARTIAN PULLS OUT THE REVOLUTIONARY BRAIN-CANCER CURE THAT THE YOUNG GIRL IN 4D OF **THAT VERY SAME BUILDING** WILL HELP DEVELOP TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW.

NGHHH!

POW

ENOUGH!

CHUD CHUD CHUD CHUD

NEXT, THE WHITE MARTIAN PLUCKS OUT **FEAR OF THE ATOMIC BOMB** FROM AN AGING HIPPIE. A THOUSAND UPTURNED FACES AS DEATH TRACES A **SCREAMING RAINBOW** ACROSS THE SKY.

SSSSS

SSSSS

SSSSS

BLAM

SSSSS

THE GREEN MARTIAN SCRAMBLES TO MAKE ONE SMALL CHANGE, TAPPING INTO THAT SAME HIPPIE'S BELIEF IN **MILITARY INCOMPETENCE--**

WHACK

THUD

THE BOMB IS A DUD.

THE WAR OF GREEN AND WHITE UNFOLDS THE SKY INTO **ALIEN GEOMETRIES** AND NONSENSE EMOTIONS.

WITH INCOMPREHENSIBLE "THESIS/ANTITHESIS" WEAPONS, LIVING PHILOSOPHIES DEBATE THE LIFE AND DEATH OF WORLDS.

REALITY'S CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE IS COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

EVERY MIND IN MIDDLETON BECOMES A BATTLEGROUND.

ME, I STAY RIGHT HERE.

WHAM

AND LET **NOTHING** GET BY.

THINGS STOPPED MAKING SENSE A **WHILE** AGO.

WHITE FLAG OF VICTORY WAVING! SPECIES-WIDE TRAGEDI-ENDING IMMINENT!

CHOCO

EXPAND EVOLVE

ENHANCE YOUR VIEW! SEE ALL TO SAVE ALL!

MARTIAN VISION ON ON C'N

...BUT ALL I SEE ARE SILHOUETTES TEARING THEMSELVES APART IN THE DARK.

DESPITE THE DARKNESS, I CAN SEE THE WHITE MARTIAN IS CONNECTED TO--

--ENTANGLED WITH--

--THE CHAOS IN THE STREETS. I CAN SEE WE ALL ARE.

WHITE MARTIAN FARMS

EXPRESSES

EMBODIES ANTI-LIFE URGES!

WHY DO WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

WHY DID I PUSH THEM AWAY, WHEN ALL I WANTED WAS TO **HOLD ON** TILL MY KNUCKLES TURNED WHITE?

WHO WAS I PROTECTING? **THEM?** OR MYSELF?

WHAT WAS I SO **AFRAID** OF?

BLAM

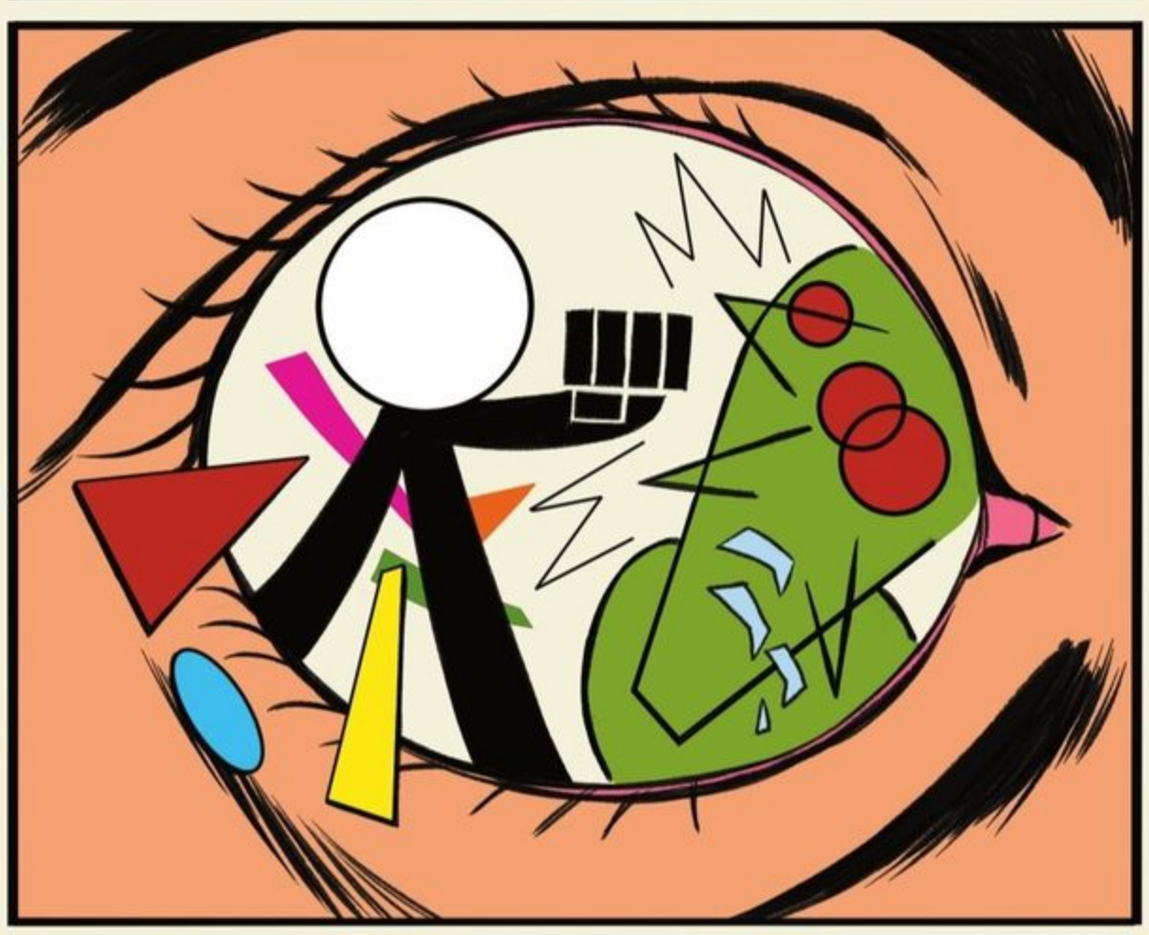
BLAM BLAM

Bridget?

WE'RE A *TEAM*, JOHN.

WHY COULDN'T I JUST TALK TO MY WIFE?

TYLER...?!
HE'S OKAY. HE'S SAFE.
BUT YOU... YOU'RE HURT...



YOU WERE RIGHT, BRIDGE, YOU WERE RIGHT. I'VE BEEN HIDING...
John--

"...I DON'T WANT TO HIDE ANYMORE."

YES
FINALLY
AT LAST!

EPIPHANIC BREAKTHROUGH!

PARTIAL CONSCIOUSNESS EXPANSION ACHIEVED

INITIATED!

UNLOCKED

MARTIAN VISION ON ON UPGRADE

Wha--?

JOHN?!

AND SUDDENLY IT'S CLEAR AS DAY. I SEE ALL OF MIDDLETON...

...THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS, AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS MAD...

...RUNNING FROM THEIR OWN SHADOWS...

...FIGHTING FIRE AND LOSS, SEEING SENSELESS VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE THEY TURN...

...INCOMPREHENSIBLE FORCES CLASHING ON BATTLEFIELDS BETWEEN THEIR EARS...

...AS THEIR BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHTLY COLORED LIVES SPILL OUT OF THEM.

SHOW THEM! LET THEM SEE EACH OTHER AS YOU I

WE SEE THEM. AS THEY SEE THEMSELVES.

HOW--?

UPGRADE UNLOCKS NEW ABILITY

KNOWLEDGE

PERCEPTIONS!

Who do you keep--

OPEN YOUR my

THEIR EYE.

THE MARTIAN'S VOICE

(or is that mine?)

SAYS--

BREATHE IN...

AND THEY DO.

THEY BREATHE IN WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS, ABUSIVE BOYFRIENDS AND CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS.

THEY BREATHE IN FIRST KISSES AND CLINICAL DEPRESSION. THEY BREATHE IN BAD DREAMS. THEY BREATHE IN EVERY KIND OF PAIN. THEY BREATHE IN DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISGRACE AND A DEAD WIFE LOOKING DOWN.

ALL OVER THE CITY, THE PEOPLE OF MIDDLETON GET HIGH ON EACH OTHER.

THE UNIVERSE FLICKERS. WHITE FALTERS EVER SO SLIGHTLY. GREEN SURGES, SEEING ITS CHANCE.

SOMETHING INEXPRESSIBLE HAPPENS. THE MIND TRIES TO MAKE SENSE OF IT THROUGH METAPHOR.

WORDS FAIL.

SLASH

FROM NOTHING TO NOTHING.

CHOF

CHOF

EQUAL PARTS TRAGEDY AND FARCE.

TYLER?!

You're okay. You're *okay.*

LOOK! THE SUN'S COMING UP. WE MADE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT.

I THOUGHT IT'D NEVER END...

BRIDGET, I... I WANT TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING. I WANT US TO BE PARTNERS.

NO MORE SECRETS. I *SWEAR.*

MESSAGE TO MY FELLOW MARTIANS:

To activate *YOUR* Martianvision, please take *page 19* of the comic book in your hands and hold it up to the light! Use a lamp, a reading light, or the sun itself--it's up to you! See diagram for details!

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To be CONTINUED.

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To be
CONTINUED.

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON ALL IN

BATMAN

INTERVIEW WITH MATT FRACTION

Returning to a monthly DC series for the first time since the Eisner Award-winning *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen*, writer Matt Fraction talks his plans as the new *Batman* series writer—the dream job he's trained for since he was three—and teaming with superstar artist Jorge Jiménez, someone who is very familiar with the Gotham City streets.

What is your vision for the series and the character?

Matt Fraction: Between the end of Chip Zdarsky and Jorge Jiménez's run and where things are in *H2SH*, it felt like a moment for a new day in Gotham. We got a new Batmobile, we got a new costume, we got new characters.

This is the book that brought me into comics. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for *Batman*. It was the first comic I ever read. Some part of me has been waiting to this since I was three, and I have a lot of ideas and cool stories to tell. And it's a new #1! There's only been three or four of those!

How are you looking to approach the tone of the book?

Part of the reason Batman has lasted as long and has resonated as loudly as he has as a character is because he's incredibly resilient. He can be all kinds of things to all different people all at the same time, whether in comics, animation, or movies.

To me, [the new *Batman* series] is Batman central. It's a very superhero forward take on Batman. There's a lot of detective-ing, there's a lot of supervillains. All the stuff that makes Batman the coolest character in comics. I want to celebrate it all and give it all a chance to shine.

We're doing self-contained issues. Each issue is a full beginning, middle, end, and builds as the series goes. Every issue is a new adventure, a new style, a new flavor, a new take.

What's it like working with Jorge Jiménez?

He's a dream. He's incredible. He's fast. He's brilliant. There's nothing I've thrown at him so far that he's not been able to draw. Both of us are trying to make this the Batman book we most wish we can read in the world, and it's a whole lot of fun.

Which villains are you excited to write?

Killer Croc is in the first issue. Croc has gone through some changes with all the changes happening in Gotham. We have new villains coming—a lot of classic villains as well.

DON'T MISS
BATMAN #1,
ON SALE SEPTEMBER!

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